



Fall Craft Workshops @ your library™

These workshops are designed for children of all ages. Drop in during the workshop hours and enjoy a wonderful family experience. Registration is not required. Just bring lots of enthusiasm and creativity! Parents are invited to come into the workshops or to remain in the library.

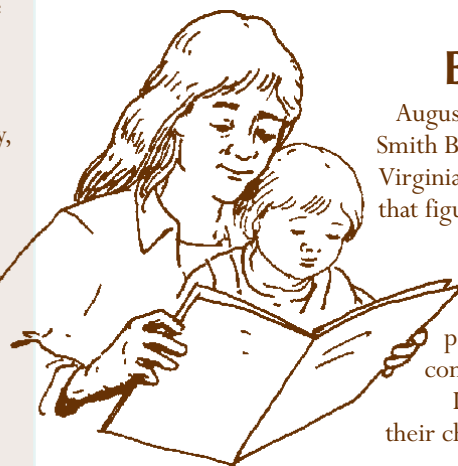
Halloween: Saturday, October 26, 2-4 PM
Thanksgiving: Saturday, November 23, 2-4 PM

Lorry Risinger,
Youth Services
Coordinator

Congratulations To Our Teen Readers @ your library™

The library and Lynchburg Humane Society would like to express our appreciation to the **144** teens who joined Virginia's statewide program *Read and Rescue* this past summer. The teens raised \$1.00 for every book they read, with a maximum of five books per student. The result was a donation given to the animal shelter in the amount of \$667.00! And thanks to the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust who provided the funds through a grant. What an impressive effort made by the youth of our community!

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator



Born to Read @ your library™

August 2002 marked the second anniversary of the Donna Hladik Smith Born to Read Program. From August 1, 2001 to July 31, 2002 Virginia Baptist hospital distributed 2546 books to newborns. Adding that figure to last year's total of 2505, the total number of books distributed since the program began is 5051. Deborah Hudson, birth registrar, said that the program continues to get many compliments and expressions of appreciation from the parents. Many of the first 2000 babies to receive a book are now coming into the library to attend our "Tales for Twos" storytimes.

It's so exciting to see that a simple concept – parents reading to their children – really works!

Born to Read Storytimes @ your library™

Do you have a child under the age of two? These storytimes are designed primarily for very young children and adults to introduce language and the library. Come and enjoy a fun-filled 20 minutes of rhymes, movements and music. Babies are very discerning listeners. Help your young child to listen, understand what's being said and feel the rhythm and pace of language. **Born to Read** always meets the second Friday of every month at 10:30.

For more information about this program, please call the Youth Services Department at 847-1717.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator

LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



2315 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, Virginia 24501

LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 5

www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2002

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R



Library affected by State Budget Woes

The deteriorating State budget situation is having a major impact on public libraries across the state. As state revenues decrease, so must expenditures. Governor Warner ordered all agencies to submit plans for reducing their current year budgets. The Librarian of Virginia has advised the public library community to expect cuts of 15% in their state funds, the most the Governor can mandate without General Assembly authorization. Additional cuts are predicted for January, after the General Assembly convenes. A 15% cut in the Lynchburg budget would be about \$34,000 from its FY 2003 appropriation of \$231,000. Fewer books, audios, CD's and videos will be purchased. And, the future of the entire "State Aid to

Public Libraries" program is in doubt. "State Aid" has been provided to Virginia's 95 public libraries since the early 1960's and has become the backbone of most libraries' budgets. As the Governor struggles to draft a balanced budget for FY 2004 to present to the General Assembly, the program itself may be on the block; it could be cut substantially in Lynchburg or eliminated completely.

State Aid is 20% of our operating budget and 95% of our materials budget. Every lost dollar will result in fewer individual books, audios, magazines, videos and books on CD's being purchased, fewer multiple copies and longer waits for popular items.

Please follow the media for up-to-date information.

Computer Instruction @ your library™

The Library's computer instruction program has met with great success in its first eight months of operation. On August 29, the program instructed its 2,000th student since commencing on January 2, 2002.

The program is partially supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has been placing computers in public libraries across the U.S. and Canada for about 4 years. In 2001 the Lynchburg Public Library received 8 PC's for public use, 2 printers, and the computer lab, equipped with 11 computers and an overhead projector, together valued at \$75,000. Additionally the Library of Virginia provided \$14,000 for the cost of equipment and remodeling.

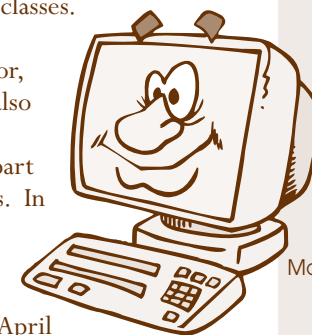
The Foundation equipped a room in the Library as a computer lab, with 10 student computers, an instructor's computer and an overhead projector.

The public instruction program targets basic computer literacy for adults. It teaches persons aged 18 and over beginning with a mouse and keyboard class, followed by classes in Internet use,

word processing, email and the Windows operating system. Classes are 60 to 90 minutes long and each class is a complete, one-time event. Students may repeat a class once.

In reaching 2,000 students, the program has held more than 300 classes. Stuart Byczynski, the computer lab coordinator, teaches the classes and also schedules the room for other uses that are not part of the Library's statistics. In 2002 the AARP tax-preparer volunteers used the lab two days a week from February to April to assist taxpayers and will do so again in 2003.

The Library has developed a joint instruction project with the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. Enrollment is handled by Parks and Recreation and the students are then



MAIN LIBRARY

2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Circulation, Renewals,
Returns, Library Cards
847-1565

Reference and
Information
847-1566

Youth Services
847-1717

Administration and
Technical Services
847-1577

Volunteer Program
847-1577

DOWNTOWN BRANCH AND LAW LIBRARY

900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
847-1768

LIBRARY HOURS Main

Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.
9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Tues., Thurs.
9:30 AM-9:00 PM

Downtown Branch
Mon. – Fri. – 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday and Friday,
November 28 and 29

continued to page 3



Employee Training at the Paraprofessional Forum Conference

Four Lynchburg Public Library employees recently attended the tenth annual Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum Conference on

the campus of the University of Richmond. The theme for this year's forum was "Tomorrow's Libraries: Are We Ready?" Over 400 library employees from all over Virginia, and from several other states came together to discuss their work and attend several sessions dealing with specific issues. Topics included *Employment Opportunities – Exploring Your Options; Dealing with Problematic Patrons*; and an all-day session *Security Solutions that Work*. This last session,

led by Warren Graham of the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Library System of North Carolina, was extremely informative. Mr. Graham

brought his expertise to the session, emphasizing the importance of security for library employees and how to deal with difficult problems that may arise in the library. Besides the formal sessions that are offered, there are several discussion groups that one may attend. Each group concentrates on one particular issue, thus exposing the attendee to the policies and procedures of various libraries.

Lynchburg Public Library staff members were also among those presenting programs at the forum. Volunteer Coordinator Chris Verilla presented *Teenage Volunteers: Where to Find Them and How to Keep Them* and Head of Adult Services Jim Whalen was a panelist for *Opening the "Gates" of the Computer Lab*. Circulation Supervisor Ona Dowdy helped to organize the first Paraprofessional Forum ten years ago, and she continues her involvement with these annual opportunities for library support staff members to come together, keep current with today's library trends, and have some fun.

The theme for next year's conference will be "Navigating the Challenges of the 21st Century."

Hester Morgan – Downtown Branch Library

My Friend the Sheriff @ your library™

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office has donated 100 packets of information to the library's Youth Services department. Each packet contains an educational coloring and activities book, a bookmark and "Junior Deputy" badge sticker. These items are packaged in a "Stash Your Trash" litter bag for future use. Help your child learn about our sheriff's department by coming by and asking for a packet while supplies last. One per child please.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator

Teen Volunteers @ your library™

Once again, a group of involved and dedicated teens participated in the library's summer teen volunteer program. Forty-nine teens from around Lynchburg donated 900 hours of time this summer. Thirty teens volunteered in Youth Services for the Summer Reading Program working more than 300 hours. Several were returning volunteers including Rebecca Milam, Holly Schubert, Seulki Moon, Morgan Vance, Julie Daniel, Brooke Justice, Cathy Patterson, Jamie Perry and Cheryn Rapp.

The Gates computer lab offered a new opportunity for teens this summer. Six "techies" spent 100 hours volunteering in the lab assisting patrons who were taking one of the library's free computer classes. One lab volunteer, Bo Sun worked at the library last summer and one, Robert Kirby has decided to continue volunteering in the lab after school. Both Bo and Robert did double duty by assisting with Outreach deliveries to area nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Seventeen teens helped with the ongoing inventory project working over 200 hours scanning barcodes in books with a hand-held Percon unit. Several who worked on the inventory project also worked in either the computer lab or with the

Summer Reading Program. Two teens volunteered at the Downtown Branch, including Allison Lang who worked at the Branch last summer.

Several teens have decided to continue to volunteer after school and more are needed now, especially in the computer lab and for inventory. Teens who are interested in volunteering can fill out an application available at the Circulation Desk. Interviews and orientation sessions will be done in the afternoon after school hours.

All teenage volunteers at the library this summer received a Certificate of Appreciation and those working over eight hours received a \$5.00 gift card as a special thank you. A letter reporting each teen's volunteer hours was also sent to the teen's school for inclusion in school records.

Chris Verilla – Volunteer Coordinator



October is Reading Group Month @ your library™

Attention all lovers of reading! If you are not already a member of a book discussion group, we invite you to join ours. The library's group, **Speaking of Books**, will be celebrating reading group month by discussing Kathleen Cambor's absorbing fictional account of the 1889 Johnstown, PA flood, *In Sunlight, in a Beautiful Garden* on Wednesday, October 16 at 1:00 PM in the library's community room. Come and join us for a lively discussion and homemade goodies. New members are always welcome. Call 847-1566 for more information.

For those of you who are members of other reading groups, we invite you to stop in and pick up one of our **Reading Group Brochures**. In it you will find recommendations of books to read and websites to visit to help you with your reading group preparations.

Happy reading!

The twelve most popular books for book discussions in 2001:

1. *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant
2. *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier
3. *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
4. *Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross
5. *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* by Susan Vreeland
6. *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver
7. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden
8. *The House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus
9. *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan
10. *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood
11. *Bee Season* by Myra Goldberg
12. *A Painted House* by John Grisham

Source: Reading Group Choices
<www.readinggroupchoices.com/>

Lynchburg Reads 2003

Buoyed with the success of the **Lynchburg Reads** activities last spring the citywide reading program will be an annual event. The book for 2003 is *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by **James McBride**. Planning for the 2003 events is already under way, and dates will be chosen within the next few months. The library has over 30 copies of the book in both regular and large print, as well as copies of the book in audiocassette format. Large print copies have also been obtained for the library's Outreach program.

Please join your fellow citizens in reading and discussing this inspirational book. Mr. McBride's memoir spent over two years on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Chosen by the New York Public Library as one of the 25 books of 1996 to remember, *The Color of Water* has sold more than 1.3 million copies in the United States alone and is now required reading at numerous colleges and high schools across the country. It has also been pub-

lished in 16 languages and more than 20 countries. This fascinating and superbly written memoir tells the story of James McBride and his mother, a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man with whom she founded a Baptist church, and put all twelve children through college. Lavishly praised by critics, and embraced by millions of readers, this tribute to a remarkable woman is an eloquent exploration of what family really means.

COMPUTER INSTRUCTION *continued from front page*

instructed in the Library's lab by Library staff.

One interesting development in the computer lab has been the use of volunteers. The Library has traditionally had a strong volunteer program, and volunteers have helped in the lab. One volunteer, a recent college graduate, taught several of the mouse and keyboard classes, while another, a high school sophomore, taught a 6-session class in creating Web pages. "This is a great opportunity for young people to learn by teaching," Stuart Byczynski, the computer coordinator, says.

Over time, the nature of the students has changed. Initially classes were attended mostly by retired women. Then younger students, both men and women, began attending, including nurses, teachers and salespeople. More recently a few classes have been almost entirely male and under 65 years of age, with increasing numbers of students in their early 20's.

Part of the program's success has been due to good media relations. Amy Coutee of *The News & Advance* has been very supportive, and the newspaper covered the program's opening in January in a major article with a large color photo. Subsequently several papers have published the complete list of classes each month. The library appreciates their support.

Stuart Byczynski – Computer Coordinator



Go Figure @ your library™

This interactive math exhibit will continue to be in the Youth Services Department through Saturday, November 16. If you haven't visited the exhibit yet, please make a special effort to take a peek and see how everyday math is found in some of children's favorite books.

Lorry Risinger,
Youth Services
Coordinator